“Here is Your Son...Your Mother”
(Series: CrossWords; Message Three)
John 19:23-27

“It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35)

“Whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it”
(Luke 9:24)

“A prophet is not without honor except in his own town and in his own home”
(Matthew 13:57)

“Everyone who has left houses or brothers of sisters of father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life”
(Matthew 19:29)

A. Why do we have to be willing to leave those we love (and love us)? Can sacrifice get any more sacrificial than that!

B. This third word of Jesus is the offer of a new family in the midst of old clothes

OLD CLOTHES (19:23-24)
A. The probability of nakedness increases the humiliation of the cross
   1. It was standard practice for the soldiers to divide the victim’s garments
   2. Jesus is legally and literally stripped of all human dignity
B. The inner garment was traditionally given to the son by his mother
   “They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my one piece of clothing they cast lots” (Psalm 22:18)
   1. The soldiers appear totally unaware that the central event in all world history is taking place right in front of them
   2. Biblical prophecy (e.g., the Suffering Servant in Isaiah 53 and the Innocent Righteous of Psalm 22) is being brought to mind and fulfilled
   3. The seamless robe (one piece “from the top down”) is a reminder of Jesus’ Prayer in John 17 that His Church be one seamless united Church

NEW FAMILY (19:25-27)
A. Jesus first CrossWord in John’s Gospel is about caring for his mother and friend
   1. These words are enough to bring two people Jesus loves together to form the nucleus of His family - the Holy Catholic (Universal) Church
   2. Jesus isn’t only taking care of his mother and friend; he is creating a new community that will bear fruitful witness to him in the world...
   3. And the Family of God, the Church, is born
B. “Woman, here is your Son”
   1. Jesus expresses his concern for his mother; he hasn’t forgotten her
   2. Nor has Jesus forgotten you or me...
C. “Son, here is Your Mother”
   1. John bailed; he didn’t hang around; but he comes back to stand with Jesus
   2. Jesus’ response? He extends grace to John and trusts his mother to his care
   3. Why didn’t Jesus ask one of his brothers to step in and care for his mother?
      a. Because according to John 7:5, his brothers didn’t believe in Jesus;
         because Jesus wants his disciples to care for those he loves
      b. We’re called to be his body (the Church) - to share his heart and mission, to minister with those in need: “Church, here is your mission!”

SAYING GOODBYE
A. Mary now stands at the cross watching her son slowly die
   1. She had learned to love her son from a distance: from the edge of the crowd, outside a packed house, on the shore of the sea, and from the foot of the cross
   2. Mary isn’t the first or only one to be called to say goodbye to loved ones and make sacrifices for the sake of the kingdom
      a. The Bible is bound together with goodbyes and stained with farewell tears
      b. “Goodbye” is a word all too common in the Christian’s vocabulary
B. What kind of God gives you a family and then asks you to leave them?
   1. Answer: A God who knows that the deepest love is built on a common mission and sacrifice
   2. Answer: A God who knows that we are only pilgrims and that eternity is so close that any “Goodbye” is in reality, “See you tomorrow!”
   3. Answer: A God who did it himself
   4. Answer: A God who is passionate about having his mission fulfilled
   5. Answer: A God who knows the family he is calling us to is even better than the one he’s asking us to leave behind
C. In their silent glance, they shared a moment. Then Jesus said goodbye

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